Hist du Canada Provinces maritimes N° 1 281

To Rev. Abbé Lerreau
Montreal

SIR:—

THE view that our Canadian history deserves more attention in our schools, and should have works devoted to it of sufficient size and affording scope for interesting treatment, is one strongly expressed by loyal Canadians, and especially by those who have compared the time given in our schools to Canadian history, with that so freely devoted in the United States to their history.

That there is a widespread desire among educationists throughout the Dominion for something better in this respect, was shown by the general response to the request of the teachers of Quebec to appoint a committee representing all the provinces to consider the matter of a text-book on Canadian history.

At the time of the meeting of the International Teachers' Convention in Toronto, the representatives of Ontario, Nova Scotia and Manitoba met, and were of opinion that the offer of a gentleman, made to the Quebec teachers, to advance $2,500 as a loan, did not afford encouragement enough to induce authors to enter on such a work. The view of the Literary Section of the Royal Society of Canada was to the same effect. Accordingly the matter was dropped.

As one who has paid some attention to this subject, and has published works on Canadian history in Britain, United States and Canada, the undersigned would state that he has been engaged for some time in preparing a School History of Canada, viewing Canada from a Dominion stand-point, and that in a few weeks he hopes to place before you his "DOMINION HISTORY OF CANADA FOR SCHOOLS," on the following conditions:

1ST. That the Dominion History of Canada will be placed on sale by booksellers in the capital of every province of the Dominion at a cost not exceeding 50 cents.

2ND. That in the provinces authorizing the Dominion History, the undersigned is prepared to set apart 5 per cent of the gross sales of the book, as a fund for establishing lectureships in Canadian history in connection with the Normal schools of such provinces.

3RD. That the forthcoming work will aim at giving due proportion to our history, from the time of the French occupation to the present time, and in the several provinces from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

4TH. That it is hoped the Dominion History will be ready for use by Jan. 1st, 1892.

The undersigned would be glad to hear from you as to the prospect of the adoption of such a work in your province.

Yours truly,

GEORGE BRYCE.

WINNIPEG, August 17th, 1891.